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BOTANY.<sup>1</sup>

**The Systematic Botany of North America.**—Under this title a work of great importance to science is now in preparation for early publication. Following the suggestion of Rabenhorst's "Kryptogamen Flora," and Engler and Prantl's "Natürliche Pflanzenfamilien," the originators of the project have sought to bring to their aid as many as possible of the working botanists of North America. Accordingly we find the names of Professor G. F. Atkinson, of Cornell; Professor N. L. Britton, of Columbia; President J. M. Coulter, of Lake Forest; Chief Botanist F. V. Coville, of the National Herbarium; Professor E. L. Greene, of California; Professor B. D. Halsted, of Rutgers, and Professor L. M. Underwood, of De Pauw, upon the board of editors, with such as the following in the list of those who have assured the editors of their coöperation: Professor T. C. Porter, of Lafayette; Professor C. R. Barnes, of Wisconsin; Director Wm. Trelease, of the Missouri Botanical Garden; Professor L. H. Bailey, of Cornell; Professor C. S. Sargent, of Harvard; Professor T. J. Burrill, of Illinois, and many others equally well known.

In the mode of publication the German plan will be followed also, the work to appear in parts of about one hundred pages each, published at intervals, five of these parts usually constituting a volume. The sequence will be that of Engler and Prantl's "Natürliche Pflanzenfamilien," and will include all plants from the Protophyta to the Compositæ. It is estimated that it will require about seventeen volumes for the whole work, or about eighty-five parts, and that it will take fifteen years to complete it. According to the present plan, Volume I will contain the *Myxomycetes*, *Schizomycetes*, *Cyanophyceæ* and *Diatomaceæ*; Volume II, the algæ; Volumes III to VIII, the fungi; (Vol. IV, the lichens); Volume IX, the *Bryophyta*, *Pteridophyta* and *Gymnospermæ*; Volumes X and XI, the Monocotyledons; Volumes XII to XVII, the Dicotyledons.

It is announced that the following parts are to appear during 1895: *Pyrenomycetes* (two parts), by J. B. Ellis and B. M. Everhart; *Hepaticæ*, by L. M. Underwood; *Typhaceæ*, *Sparganiaceæ*, *Naiadaceæ*, *Juncaginaceæ*, *Alismaceæ* and *Hydrocharitaceæ*, by Thomas Morong; *Cyperaceæ* (two parts), by N. L. Britton and L. H. Bailey.

The parts may be obtained as issued of Professor N. L. Britton, of Columbia College, New York, the chairman of the board of editors.

CHARLES E. BESSEY.

<sup>1</sup> Edited by Prof. C. E. Bessey, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Botanical News.**—Botanists everywhere will be glad to learn that the veteran collector, A. H. Curtiss, of Jacksonville, Florida, has resumed the collection and distribution of herbarium specimens. All who have seen the fine specimens which Mr. Curtiss prepared in his sets of North American plants distributed ten or more years ago need not be told of their superior quality. He now offers in this "Second Distribution of Plants of the Southern United States" two "series" of two hundred species each, at sixteen dollars per series. It is to be hoped that this distribution will be given the encouragement it deserves.

The experiment of publishing monthly the cards for the card-index to the Bibliography of American Botany has been most successful so far as the work itself is concerned. The printing has been excellent, and a very good quality of card has been used. We trust that botanists who have not already done so will enter their subscriptions soon for this most useful help in the botanical library. The annual subscription is five dollars, and the cards are supplied by the Cambridge Botanical Supply Company, Cambridge, Mass.

Among the excellent text-books of botany which have recently appeared in Germany, two deserve especial mention, viz.: Dr. K. Giesenhagen's *Lehrbuch der Botanik*, a pretty volume of 335 octavo pages, from the publishing house of E. Wolf, of Munich, and Dr. K. Schumann's *Lehrbuch der Systematischen Botanik*, of 705 octavo pages, published by F. Enke, of Stuttgart. Both are freely illustrated with good engravings. They will be helpful to those engaged in teaching botany in colleges and universities.

Oels's *Experimental Plant Physiology*, as translated by D. T. MacDougal, of the University of Minnesota, is a most useful little book. A somewhat extended trial with students in physiological botany shows it to be well adapted for laboratory use.

We would like to commend to the botanists of this country, especially to those who are engaged in teaching in the better class of colleges and universities, that most excellent journal, *Garden and Forest*, edited by Professor Charles S. Sargent, of Harvard University. Coming as it does every week, it brings fresh matter to the reader at frequent intervals, and there is not a number in the whole year which does not contain much botanical matter.

Our three strictly botanical journals, *The Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* (now entering its twenty-second volume), *The Botanical Gazette* (entering its twentieth year), and *Erythea* (in its third year), have continued their steady ways the past year, in spite of

panics and general business depression. They are journals of which American science has no cause to be ashamed. The two older journals include the record of a period of remarkable activity in American botany, and it is fair to say that from them has largely come the impulse to this activity. We doubt not that a score of years hence we may say the same for the much younger journal upon the Pacific coast.

Professor A. S. Hitchcock brought out two handy little books during the past year, viz., *A Key to the Spring Flora of Manhattan* (Kansas), and *A Key to the Genera of Manhattan Plants Based on Fruit Characters*. They are full of suggestions to teachers, and must be very helpful to students of botany in Eastern Kansas. The sequence of families is that of Engler and Prantl.

Professor L. H. Bailey brought out in the August bulletin of the Cornell University Agricultural Experimental Station another of his numerous contributions to botany. This one is devoted to *The Cultivated Poplars*, and with the illustrations and descriptions of the leaves, twigs and buds, must prove useful to those who wish to distinguish the cultivated species of this interesting genus.

From the Bulletin of the Michigan Fish Commission (No. 2) we have "The Plants of Lake St. Clair," by A. J. Pieters, containing eleven pages of text and a map. Lists of aquatic plants are given, and these are accompanied by a discussion of their distribution at different depths and under varying conditions.

—C. E. B.